

## Thomas Hart Benton to Andrew Jackson, October 16, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS H. BENTON TO JACKSON.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jackson had stationed Lieutenant-Colonel Benton, with a part of the 39th Regiment, at Fort Montgomery, to keep his eye on the hostile Creeks. From Benton he received many letters relating to the Indians and several, like this, giving information about affairs in Pensacola.

Fort Montgomery, October 16, 1814.

*Sir*, A messenger from Boyles<sup>2</sup> has come in since dark, and brings the two letters which are enclosed. He met the Choctaws, 2 or 300 in number who left this post to day, and directed their course to the Escambia, on the waters of which the Red clubs<sup>3</sup> have collected and are still collecting cattle; and the balance of them (the Choctaws) will be pushed out in the morning to occupy a pass on the Escambia called *Chemuckly*,<sup>4</sup> through which the Clubs must all run to arrive at Pensacola when started in the woods above. Boyles is guarded at his own house by a piquet of 40 Indians and 6 Spaniards; and earnestly begs that he and his family may be brought off. Col. Carsons command and that of Major Hinds will go down to do him that service; and the messenger offers to return and conduct them to the spot where the piquet sleeps every night without fires.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 48, n. 2, *ante*.

<sup>3</sup> Or Red Sticks; Indians disaffected to the United States.

<sup>4</sup> Chumuckla, some 25 miles above Pensacola.

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The messenger states that the English are repairing St. Georges Re-doubt *one third* of which is now down. He also states than when the expected reinforcement arrives, which they represent to be very formidable, they will make an instant movement upon the interior of the country by the way of this post; intending to march with so much rapidity that the news of their coming shall not preceede them. I would send the messenger to you, but deem him essential to Col. Carson as a guide, by whom he is to be brought back, and then he will be forwarded to you. . . .